

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend page 6, first full paragraph, to read as follows:

In [both] either case[s], ~~and generally~~ within the spirit and scope of the present invention generally, the chains ~~to be utilized are characterized by~~ preferably include a relatively simple structure, such as ~~in the case of~~ the so-called “forzatina” chain, “gourmette” chain, “rolò”, “veneziana”, bead chain and/or the like. [All t] These well-known types of chains each have a structure [such] characterized in that the side of their links are sufficiently large [enough] to ~~allow the~~ enable their connection to [the] linking crosspieces.

Please amend page 6, second full paragraph, to read as follows:

Optionally, [T] these chains, as well as their linking crosspieces, can be made of a selected precious or non-precious metal. Alternatively or concurrently, [D] different precious [or] metals, non-precious metals, or materials having different chromatic features may be used for the same article, giving consideration to the purpose for which the present invention is intended.

Please amend page 6, third full paragraph, to read as follows:

~~As regards~~ In addition, the section of the crosspieces, ~~it may by of be formed in~~ any shaped (i.e., circular, oval, quadrilateral, triangular, polygon[al], etc.). [The] An optimal dimension of [the] a wire section ~~of the wire~~, of which the cross pieces are made ~~of will be that~~ is sufficient necessarily to ~~give the~~ provide a maximum exposed surface as ~~a result of upon~~ flattening without [useless] increas[e]ing [of] the weight of the product, albeit needlessly, [which] as would occur beyond a certain wire section size.

Please amend from after the third full paragraph on page 6 to before the first full paragraph on page 7 to read as follows:

[The] Turning now to a method [for] of producing the semi-finished article according to [Figure] FIG. 1 envisages feeding the two, initially chains 1 and 2 are fed along a first direction, [feeding] the wire from which the crosspieces are to be [obtained] made being fed along a second direction at generally right angles to the ~~one in which the chains are fed, and~~ first. S[s]ubsequently, [cutting] the wires are cut into portions having a length equal to ~~the length that~~ of each crosspiece. ~~Thereafter, the~~ wire portions ~~cut in this manner~~ are positioned between two homologous links of the [two] chains by moving the [wire] portions sideways in a direction generally at right angles to the plane in which the [two] chains are being moved forward [and]. ~~Last, then welding~~ the ends of the piece are welded to the sides of the two homologous links.

Please amend page 7, first full paragraph, to read as follows:

[The] A similar procedure may be utilized to ~~for the production of~~ a multiple semi-finished article like that shown in [Figure] FIG. 2 [is altogether similar:]. F[f]irst, the semi-finished article, ~~constituted by the~~ made up of chains 4 and 5 and [the] crosspiece group 7 that connects the [two] chains [are], is made ~~and then~~. T[t]he semi-finished article formed in this manner [are] is then fed, in parallel, with [the] chain 5 in order to ~~proceed with~~ connect[ing] the respective links ~~by means of the~~ using crosspiece group 8. In the case of the multiple semi-finished article [with] having two paired central chains, the two individual semi-finished products are first [produced] made and then joined to[gether] one another in a generally coplanar manner by attaching two of their chains, one to the [each] other, along their sides.

Please amend from after the first full paragraph on page 7 through to the end of page 8 to read as follows:

[The] Advantageously, production of [the] a semi-finished article with [an] interlinked structure, according to the method described above, can be ~~advantageously carried out~~ accomplished in an ~~automatically manner by means of~~ using an appropriate machine, such as one that compris[ing]es a unit for feeding two chains side-by-side in a pre[fixed]determined direction, and a unit for feeding and cutting the wire into portions of a length corresponding to the length of the crosspieces. The same unit translates the wire portions along the feed direction of the [two] chains so as to arrange them

therebetween. The machine also [comprises] includes a [welding] unit for welding the[se] wire portions to the sides of two homologous links of the [two] chains. Preferably, [t]The welding unit preferably comprises two laser welders [which] that weld the two ends of each wire portion to the respective links. ~~This apparatus is not described in further detail as being easy to be assembled by a person skilled in the art starting from components well known in the field of goldsmithery apparatuses~~ Such machines are well known to those skilled in the art and further description is considered unnecessary for purposes of illustrating the present invention. For example, the wires feeding/cutting and wires portions translating unit is of [the] a type commonly used for the production of crosspieces to be [connected] joined to the respective links, such as [in] the ~~case of the~~ so-called “maglia marina” (marine link) chain, while the unit for moving the two chains in the same direction is of the type employed in [the] machines for [the] produc[t]i[o]ng [of] paired chains (also known as “Bismark” chains).

Please amend page 9, paragraph 1, to read as follows:

In an alternative embodiment of the present invention, ~~which will be obvious for a person skilled in the art,~~ the crosspieces ~~may be separately~~ are produced separately and positioned between the chains ~~for being to be welded to the chain links by means of using~~ a conventional feeder.

Please amend page 9, paragraph 2, to read as follows:

The semi-finished article with [an] interlinked structure, as [shown] illustrated generally in [Figure] FIG. 1, and [also] its different embodiments [like] such as the one ~~of Figure~~ in FIG. 2, can [easily] be readily subjected to surface polishing as a finishing treatment and, in turn, used ~~in that way~~ as a finished product. Alternatively [or], ~~with a view~~ to increas[ing]e the ratio between exposed surface and weight, the crosspieces may then be flattened, pressed or otherwise fashioned in various ways, and/or deformed in the shape of an “S”, for ~~example~~ instance, to increase [their] brightness. An example of a semi-finished article ~~in which the~~ with crosspieces that have been subjected to [a] flattening or pressing treatment, and then fashioned in the shape of an “S”[,] or undulated, is shown in [Figures] FIGS. 3 and 4.

Please amend from after paragraph 2 on page 9 to before the first full paragraph on page 10 to read as follows:

In addition, [T]he semi-finished article with [an] interlinked structure, according to the present invention, can be subjected to successive processing operations to obtain products of different shapes. For example, ~~its structure~~ the article may be opened physically in order to obtain linear chains characterized by [an] alternati[o]ng [of] links and crosspieces 12, as shown in [Figure] FIG. 6. The opening may also ~~give rise to~~ facilitate production of linear products in which [the] crosspieces 13 extend in [the] a

radial direction, as shown in [Figure] FIG. 8 [and]. As a further option, the radial crosspieces may or may not [have] be provided with a link at their free end.

Please amend page 10, first full paragraph, to read as follows:

~~The operation of opening~~ T[t]he semi-finished article can be carried out is  
preferably opened by mechanical action, e.g., by cutting, or ~~preferably by~~ more desirably  
using chemical means, i.e., by initially making one of the two chains, or part of its links,  
[in] of a metal, such as copper, that [proves] is soluble if reacted with a strong acid  
compound (shown in black in [Figures] FIGS. 5 and 7). More particularly, [The] links  
made of chemically soluble metal are indicated at 10 in [Figure] FIG. 5 and [the] chains  
made of chemically soluble metal are ~~indicated at~~ labeled 11 in [Figure] FIG. 7.

Please amend page 10, second full paragraph, to read as follows:

For example, the chain ~~of Figure~~ illustrated in FIG. 6 can be produced by first  
manufacturing a semi-finished article, in accord[ing]ance with [to] the present invention,  
like the one shown in [Figure] FIG. 5, ~~wherein~~. In particular, the two chains have  
alternate links made of both a precious metal and a chemically soluble metal [like] such  
as copper. Similarly, to obtain the chain of [figure] FIG. 8, it ~~will be~~ is necessary to ~~start~~  
~~from~~ begin with a semi-finished article, according to the present invention[, where]in  
which one of the two chains is made [of] from a metal soluble ~~by means of a~~ using a

selected chemical treatment, such a[s]n [the] article being [shown] illustrated in [figure] FIG. 7.

Please amend from after the second full paragraph on page 10 to before the first full paragraph on page 11 to read as follows:

~~Clearly, in this case~~ As will be understood by those skilled in the art before ~~subjecting the article to chemical treatment, in order to allow the product to be held~~ firmly, it is relatively important that all [the] surface finishing operations ~~will have to be~~ carried out be completed before subjecting the article to chemical treatment to enable a firm holding of the product.

Please amend page 11, first full paragraph, to read as follows:

The semi-finished article ~~according to the invention~~ can also be made to have a of the variable width (~~so-called~~ also known as "scalar") [type], i.e., with [the] crosspieces having progressively increasing or decreasing length, as shown in [figure] FIG. 9. According to another [embodiment] aspect of the present invention, a variable pitch semi-finished article ~~can be~~ is manufactured, as ~~shown~~ set forth in [figures] FIGS. 10 and 11, wherein. In this embodiment, the crosspieces are further arranged in an alternat[e]ing sequence, for example, of the [type] 1-0-1-0-1 type or [type] the 1-1-0-1-0-1-1-0-1-0 type. These [alternating] sequences, together with others that [can] may be similarly conceived ~~in a very obvious manner,~~ [may] can also be ~~provided for~~ utilized with the

semi-finished article shown in [Figure] FIGS. 1 or [Figure] 2 in which the crosspieces are all generally of the same length.